

Message Text

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21

ACTION EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0338

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL, OEXC (LKEENER, JORGEN), DA

SUBJ: STATUS OF CABLE TV DENMARK

REF: A) STATE 015969; B) COPENHAGEN A-30, FEB 15, 1973

1. THE FOLLOWING IS RESPONSIVE TO REQUEST BY THE OFFICE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY (OTP) IN THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT FOR INFORMATION ON CABLE TV IN DENMARK (REFTEL).

2. IN 1973, THE DANISH PARLIAMENT APPROVED LEGISLATION PERMITTING THE GOVERNMENT TO LICENSE, ON A TEST BASIS, RADIO AND TV CABLE OR AIR BROADCASTS BY ORGANIZATIONS OTHER THAN THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED DANISH RADIO AND TV WHICH HAD HELD A MONOPOLY POSITION UNTIL THEN. THE INTENT OF THE NEW LEGISLATION IS TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR MUNICIPALITIES OR COUNTRIES, RATHER THAN PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS, TO PRESENT PROGRAMS OF LOCAL INTEREST. THE LICENSES ARE ADMINISTERED BY THE MINISTRY OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS, WHICH ALSO HAS OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR DANISH RADIO AND TV. WE ARE INFORMED THAT, TO DATE, ONLY ONE LICENSE HAS BEEN APPLIED FOR AND GRANTED, NAMELY TO THE MUNICIPALITY OF VARDE (17,000 UNCLASSIFIED

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INHABITANTS). VARDE HAS ONLY MADE ONE TEST

TRANSMISSION SO FAR THROUGH A LOCAL COMMUNITY ANTENNA SYSTEM. NO OTHER MUNICIPALITY OR COUNTRY HAS APPLIED FOR A LICENSE.

3. DENMARK HAS ABOUT 1.4 MILLION REGISTERED TELEVISION VIEWERS. DANISH RADIO AND TELEVISION IS FINANCED THROUGH A LICENSE FEE PAID BY LISTENERS AND VIEWERS. ABOUT HALF OF ALL VIEWERS ARE CONNECTED TO COMMUNAL ANTENNA SYSTEMS, USUALLY OWNED BY THEIR LANDLORDS OR ANTENNA ASSOCIATIONS. THROUGH THESE ANTENNA SYSTEMS, VIEWERS CAN WATCH DANISH, AS WELL AS GERMAN (BOTH EAST AND WEST), SWEDISH, AND NORWEGIAN TELEVISION DEPENDING ON THE DISTANCE OF THEIR LOCATION FROM THESE COUNTRIES. SUCH COMMUNITY ANTENNA SYSTEMS ARE PERMITTED UNDER THE NEW LAW BUT REQUIRE TECHNICAL APPROVAL BY THE PTT. THESE ANTENNA SYSTEMS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO TRANSMIT OTHER THAN DIRECT PROGRAMS FROM DANISH AND FOREIGN STATIONS WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE MINISTRY FOR CULTURAL AFFAIRS.

4. THE RADION COUNCIL HAS POLICY CONTROL OVER DANISH RADIO AND TELEVISION. IT CONSISTS OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN, APPOINTED BY THE MINISTER OF CULTURE; A RADION ENGINEER APPOINTED BY THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS; TEN MEMBERS APPOINTED BY PARLIAMENT, REPRESENTING LISTENER AND VIEWER ORGANIZATIONS; TWO STAFF MEMBERS OF DANISH RADIO-TV REPRESENTING THE EMPLOYEES; AND FIVE MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENT ITSELF, CHOSEN FROM THE PARTIES REPRESENTED ON THE FINANCE COMMITTEE. THE CHAIRMAN'S TERM IS FOUR YEARS.

5. THE RADIO COUNCIL MEETS MONTHLY, AND A NINE MEMBER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETS WEEKLY ON QUESTIONS OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION. IT HAS NO DIRECT U.S. COUNTERPART. IT DECIDES ON HIRING AND FIRING OF RADIO-TV STAFF, DETERMINES PROGRAM POLICY, HEARS COMPLAINTS ON PAR-

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TICULAR PROGRAMS. AS A POLITICAL BODY, IT IS FREQUENTLY IN CONFLICT WITH MANAGEMENT AND/OR STAFF OF RADION AND TV, AND COMPROMISES ARE USUALLY NECESSARY BETWEEN THEM.

6. EMBASSY CALLS DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION TO PARTIAL IV GRANT AWARDED TO CURRENT CHAIRMAN OF RADIO COUNCIL, DR. JORGEN KLEENER. KLEENER

ARRIVED IN WASHINGTON JANUARY 26 AND CAN BE
CONTACTED DIRECTLY FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON
COUNCIL'S FUNCTION.
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